

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-3

NEW YORK TIMES
4 JANUARY 1983

U.S. AIDES UNEASY ON SOVIET CODING

Moscow Is Said to Undercut
Understanding on Arms —
Americans to Protest

By RICHARD HALLORAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 — When strategic arms negotiations resume in Geneva next month, United States negotiators plan to protest that Soviet encoding of information transmitted from missiles on test flights has been excessive, Administration officials said today.

To prevent such actions, which the officials say undercut an understanding on arms control, American negotiators plan to urge Soviet representatives to guarantee access to test information that is transmitted electronically to ground stations during flights.

For more than two years, the officials said, the Soviet Union has been encoding telemetry from missiles in test flights. This, the officials say, is a violation of the second strategic arms limitations agreement, which although never ratified by the United States has been observed by both nations.

The most recent instance, officials said, has been the testing of a submarine-launched missile, known as the SS-NX-20. Carried aboard new Typhoon submarines, which are the world's largest, the missile has a range of 5,000 miles and can carry 12 nuclear warheads.

U.S. Balked by Coded Signals

United States monitoring devices in satellites have picked up signals emitted by transmitters aboard the missiles, but analysts have been unable to ascertain what the signals mean, officials indicated. They declined to discuss the secret monitoring technology.

The issue of encoded telemetry has long troubled efforts to reach agreements on arms control with the Soviet Union and has raised the question of whether the Soviet Union can be trusted to observe such agreements.

United States officials consider access to Soviet telemetry important because it helps to verify developments in Soviet weapons and to ascertain that the Soviet Union has been abiding by agreements on arms limitations.

Conversely, coded transmissions of information about range, speed, altitude, course and performance make United States observers of the Soviet Union nervous, the officials said. "We don't like it," one official said.

Restriction in Arms Treaty

The second arms limitations pact prohibits both nations from deliberately denying missile information that would impede efforts to verify implementation of the agreement. President Reagan has opposed the treaty because he considers it too favorable to the Soviet Union.

During negotiations on the treaty, which was completed in 1979 by the Carter Administration, American officials warned Soviet negotiators that continued encoding of telemetry would jeopardize the chances of ratifying the pact in the Senate.

Senators Jake Garn, Republican of Utah; Richard G. Lugar, Republican of Indiana, and John Glenn, Democrat of Ohio, were among the leading advocates at that time of a provision to govern encoded telemetry.

Since the Soviet Union has apparently ignored provisions against the deliberate denial of encoded telemetry in the second arms control agreement, officials said they would seek to reverse the provision and put the onus on the Soviet Union for making testing open.

STAT